

MANAGING DOWNED CATTLE**1. PURPOSE**

emergency situation that must be managed carefully to ensure the health and safety of the animal and minimize discomfort.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 Trained and qualified staff
- 2.2 Herd veterinarian

3. MATERIALS

- 3.1 Electric prod (only if necessary)
- 3.2 Thermometer
- 3.3 anti-inflammatory (e.g., Anafen 3mg/kg)
- 3.4 Grit
- 3.5 Wood shavings

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1 If an animal becomes sick or injured:

assess the health of the animal and the likelihood of recovery based on the following conditions:

- rectal temperature (Normal temperature range = 38.0-
- respiration
- traces of diarrhea
- allergic reaction
- injury
- Food and water intake
- Ear temperature (cows)

If the animal requires treatment, consult with a technician.

- 4.2 The electric prod should only be used on a cow or heifer in extreme situations and as a last resort to help motivate the animal to give her best effort to stand.
- 4.3 If the animal cannot be moved humanely, contact the herd vet. The animal may be required to be euthanized. Refer

4.6.6.3 Highly positive Keto Test requires the administration of an i.v bolus of Dextrose.

4.6.6.4 Repeat the Keto Test 12 hours after Dextrose treatment.

4.6.7 If no symptoms, the cow may be injured or in pain.

4.6.7.1 Notify the technician.

4.6.7.2 Administer an anti-inflammatory (e.g., Anafen 3mg/kg) upon the

4.6.7.3 Allow her to rest for at least 15 minutes before trying to get her up again.

4.6.8 If there is no improvement after the administration of medications, contact the veterinarian.

4.6.9 Record all interventions in the log sheet.

4.7 **DOWNED LACTATING COW IN TIE STALL**

4.7.1 Assess the health of the cow. Refer to section 5.1.

4.7.2 Milk her lying down and into a pail. Refer to SOP [DC](#)

4.9 **DOWNED COW IN FEED MANGER:**

If a cow ends up in the manger and is unable to get up on her own:

4.9.1 Assess the health of the cow. Refer to section 5.1.

4.9.2 Notify the technician.

4.9.3 Place rubber mats around her legs and sprinkle grit down to reduce slipping.

4.9.4

4.9.14.8 With the assistance of several personnel, push the cow and transfer to the box stall using a skid steer.

4.9.15 Monitor the locomotion and check for injuries that require topical treatments. Return the animals to tie stall (with a strap) if/when she is no longer exhibiting any difficulty or discomfort while walking or getting up.

4.9.16 Record all interventions in the log sheet.

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